

RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BROOKLINE SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016** AT 6:00 PM IN THE JAMES F. WALSH SCHOOL COMMITTEE ROOM, 5TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL. STATUTORY NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK.

School Committee Members Present: Ms. Ditkoff (Chairman), Mr. Pollak (Vice Chairman), Mr. Chang, Ms. Charlupski, Mr. Glover, Dr. Jackson, Ms. Scotto, Ms. Stone, and Ms. Stram. Also present: Mr. Bott, Ms. Gittens, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Lummis, Ms. Jennings, and Ms. Coyne.

Others Present: Ms. Brewton, Mr. Kleckner, Mr. Lantos, and members of the Board of Selectmen: Chairman Neil Wishinsky, Selectman Nancy Daly, Selectman Ben Franco, Selectman Bernard Greene, and Selectman Nancy Heller (by phone).

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

a. Calendar

Ms. Ditkoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. She noted upcoming events on the calendar.

b. Consent Agenda

ACTION 16-60

On a motion of Ms. Scotto and seconded by Dr. Jackson, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the item included in the Consent Agenda.

- i. Past Record: September 8, 2016 School Committee Meeting

2. WELCOME TO CHINA EXCHANGE VISITORS

Steve Lantos, China Exchange Coordinator at Brookline High School (BHS), stated that the Brookline-Xi'an China Exchange Program (CHEX) annually brings a group of students and a teacher from BHS to live and study for the spring semester at the Gao Xin No. 1 School in Xi'an, China. In turn, our sister school sends us a group of their students and teacher who stay with Brookline host families, integrating them into our mainstream classes and extracurricular activities at BHS during the fall semester. The CHEX program is unique in the length of stay (full semester) compared to many other school exchange programs. Students from both sides form lasting relationships with their families and the schools, and the CHEX program moves many of its participants to consider further study or work opportunities in China or the United States. Mr. Lantos expressed his appreciation to the School Committee, school administration and teachers, and the host families for their support of this program. He discussed how students' lives have been transformed by this experience and noted that a delegation from Gao Xin No. 1 School will be visiting BHS on October 5, 2016. Mr. Lantos then introduced the students and their teacher who described their experiences and initial impressions of Brookline and Brookline High School. The students and teacher expressed their deep gratitude for this opportunity and for the enthusiastic welcome. The School Committee members gave a warm welcome to the students.

3. STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Jennings reported that the start of the school year has gone well, with the exception of the picnic table graffiti incident. She stated that the incident was disturbing and that it was not the first time. Ms. Jennings described the administration's response to the incident, which included placing a picnic table in the Brookline High School atrium so that students and faculty could write messages of unity.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Bott explained that he is participating in the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Superintendents Induction Program. He then introduced Dr. Irwin Blumer, his mentor match for the next three years. Dr. Blumer provided an overview of the Induction Program, which is in its 7th year. Mr. Bott will participate in eight content days and receive six hours of coaching each month in his first year; five content days and four hours of coaching each month in his second year; and three content days and group coaching in his third year. Towards the end of his first year, Mr. Bott will be expected to present three or four objectives that are connected to improving instruction in the classroom for all kids. It is important that Mr. Bott has the time to focus on these objectives. Dr. Blumer stated that it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Bott. The School Committee members thanked Dr. Blumer for providing this overview and for his work with Mr. Bott and the district.

Mr. Bott then provided the following report:

Superintendent School Visits

Since our September 8th School Committee meeting, I have been able to visit four schools: BEEP Putterham; BEEP Lynch; Heath School; and Driscoll School.

At BEEP Putterham and BEEP Lynch, I had the opportunity to visit every class and observe the exceptional early childhood teams at each of these locations. I saw center-based learning, class meetings, class read alouds, and individual student work. In each of the BEEP sites, we have exceptional early childhood educators who very successfully meet the individual learning needs of our youngest students. I am very much looking forward to my visit to our third BEEP site, BEEP Beacon, this coming Tuesday.

On Monday, Dr. Sevelius and I visited a number of middle school classes at Heath School. We observed history, math, and English/Language Arts, and I had the opportunity to see the new STEAM/Maker Space that the Heath team created with generous support from the Heath PTO. As one specific example of the great teaching at Heath, I saw 7th grade students responding to literature in creative and insightful ways. In each class I visited, there was a deep level of engagement, with students excited about their learning.

Earlier today I spent three hours at Driscoll School visiting the Language and Academic Home Base Program (LAHB). During this visit, I spent an hour in Ms. Hawkin's 5th grade class observing an incredibly rigorous math lesson where LAHB students were fully mainstreamed and supported. Then, after a short stop at a BEEP class at Driscoll, I observed the LAHB team delivering their sequential and multisensory language based literacy instruction. There was a remarkable level of support and individualization in every interaction between staff and students.

Entry Plan Update

Over the past two weeks, I have continued meeting with Town Leaders identified in the entry plan process discussed at the July School Committee retreat. Last Thursday I had the opportunity to meet with Advisory Committee members Sean Lynn-Jones, Carla Benka and Michael Sandman. Town Administrator Mel Kleckner and I have established a regular meeting schedule. Our work together is a critical piece of maintaining the strong Town/School partnership that exists in Brookline. Meetings still to be scheduled include the chairs of the Planning Board, the Building Commission, and the Park and Recreation Commission and Town Moderator Sandy Gadsby.

One of our priorities during my onboarding is to implement mentoring for new principals and support for all of our vice-principals. The principal mentors are meeting regularly with their mentees. Today, vice-principals had the first of their monthly meetings that are organized and led by Lesley Ryan Miller and Gabe McCormick. In addition, in the Office of Student Services, Deputy Superintendent Sam Zimmerman has collaborated with Gabe McCormick to develop yearlong professional development for Education Team Facilitators that are tied closely to our district goals. This professional development is already mapped out meeting by meeting for the entire year. Mr. Zimmerman is working with Christina Palmer, Director of Guidance and Counseling Services, to develop the same approach for guidance counselors district-wide.

PK-12 Office of Teaching and Learning Retreat

The Office of Teaching & Learning brought together BHS Curriculum Coordinators, K-8 Curriculum Coordinators and Program Directors for two days to start developing a culture of PK-12 collaboration across the district, do some team building, and begin longer term planning. The first day, September 14th, these leaders worked with Outward Bound Professionals on a series of team building exercises to deepen interpersonal connections, develop a stronger sense of colleagues' work styles, and learn about accepting change as a part of growth. Outward Bound Professional Director Ellen Harris facilitated this work. Ellen also facilitated the Outward Bound Professional

experience in August for principals and senior leadership and was able to work on consistent themes with each group.

On the 15th, the OTL Team worked together on the year's priorities for the Office of Teaching & Learning. Nicole Gittens, Amy Martin, Lesley Miller, and Gabe McCormick facilitated the day, focusing on educator evaluation, collaboration, and goal setting.

Nicole led a session that allowed the team to review the prioritized elements of the DESE educator evaluation rubric. The team then generated a list of observable practices and behaviors related to these elements that can be seen across preK-12 classrooms. These practices will be the foundation of our continued work to identify district-wide instructional best practices.

Amy Martin facilitated the team in working with colleagues to complete a schedule for classrooms observations. The objective of this work was to establish a calendar for team classroom observations that will promote calibration of evaluators and refine the district's definition of effective instruction.

Gabe McCormick facilitated a collaborative goal setting protocol to develop an overall picture of our work together for this year and beyond. The team focused on individual work, topics for further learning and district issues to be addressed. Some of the issues identified included: not having a strategic plan to align work to across schools; the need to identify common instructional practices across the district; and using data to inform ongoing improvement of instruction.

One appreciative high school administrator noted that it was the most she had collaborated with PK-8 colleagues in her whole time working in Brookline. The OTL Team left the two-day retreat excited to continue developing our relationships and feeling that our shared work has set the stage for the development of the Office of Teaching & Learning's 5-year plan.

- 1. Amy Martin*
- 2. Arnie Marcus*
- 3. Barbara Maged*
- 4. Dan Bresman*
- 5. Dawn Carney*
- 6. Ed Wiser*
- 7. Gabe McCormick*
- 8. Gary Shiffman*
- 9. Geoff Tegnell*

10. Janet MacNeil
11. Jenee Ramos
12. Joanna Lieberman
13. Josh Paris
14. Kathleen Hubbard
15. Kenny Kozol
16. Lesley Miller
17. Mary Burchenal
18. Matt Rosenthal
19. Mindy Paulo
20. Natalie Dean
21. Nicole Gittens
22. Regina Watts
23. Scott Moore
24. Suzie Talukdar
25. Tina Bozeman

Emergency Management Committee

We have pulled together an Emergency Response Team for the district that is reviewing current emergency response practices, policies, and protocols and will develop improvements so the PSB becomes up to date on best practices for ensuring student and staff safety. This team is organized by myself and the Deputy Superintendent for Administration & Finance and includes the Coordinator of Health Services, the Director of Operations, Brookline High School's Assistant Headmaster, Brookline High School's Interim Headmaster (as available), the Deputy Superintendent for Student Services, and the Lincoln School Principal. In the upcoming monthly meetings, the team will be:

- *Developing annual trainings for school-basis crisis teams, police, fire, and other municipal departments that respond during school emergencies;*
- *Updating the required memorandum of agreement between the school department and the police department;*
- *Designing training for staff in preparation for active shooter scenarios;*
- *Reviewing and updating our emergency communications plan;*
- *Reviewing and updating emergency response procedures; and*
- *Reviewing district policy and procedures for passive surveillance of school and school buses to support student and staff safety.*

As this team's work moves forward it will expand to include two Brookline police officers and the Deputy Fire Chief.

Elementary Literacy Assessment

This week the administration of our only district-wide literacy assessment for grades 1-8, the Benchmark Assessment System (BAS), began. Last week I sent an email to all K-8 staff stressing the importance of literacy instruction and the role that the BAS plays in gathering important information about our students' literacy skills that help inform instruction. We are making a few important short-term improvements in the administration and reporting of the BAS. First we are using Google Sheets to make the distribution of the scoring sheets and the reporting easier than in the past. Instead of being shared in a mass mailing from the district, these sheets will be shared individually by the literacy coaches and specialists at each school so our literacy experts can follow up with teachers directly if they have questions. Once a teacher finishes doing the BAS with their class and enters the results in their Google Sheet, we will provide a report to each teacher within ten days that shows how their students did on BAS now and last year and will help them easily identify the range of levels of their students. This the first time the district is providing BAS reports directly to teachers.

And as I shared in my letter to staff, this fall we will begin to look at other possible improvements to BAS, the various ways we can assess students to gain nuanced understanding of their literacy profiles, and the processes for supporting literacy instruction throughout our K-8 schools. We plan to work with literacy specialists, classroom teachers, coaches, and school communities to fully understand what is working and where changes need to be made. Collaboration and teamwork will be crucial in this work as we move ahead.

MCAS and ACCESS Computer Based Testing

In June, DESE announced the phase-in plan for MCAS computer-based testing. Their goal is to have "virtually all students" using computer-based testing (CBT) by 2019 with grades 4 and 8 implementing it this spring. While we have the option to have additional grades use CBT this spring, I have decided that we should follow DESE's recommendations and do a gradual roll out that allows our educators and administrators as well as our colleagues in the Town IT department to focus on effective implementation with a smaller number of students. This week we participated in DESE's very first phone calls about the roll-out of CBT; one was about scheduling and process for administration and the other focused on the technology required of schools and districts related to CBT and other recent developments in online learning.

In the upcoming months, this effort will require strong collaboration between the Office of Teaching & Learning, the Office of Strategy & Performance and Town IT. We will build on the successes and challenges we faced during our initial trial of computer-based

testing with ACCESS that occurred in January 2016. In the coming weeks, Kevin Stokes will join us at a School Committee meeting to update us on the significant improvements that have been made in in our technology and network infrastructure in anticipation of the continued growth of digital learning tools and the onset of computer-based state testing.

**5. JOINT MEETING OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF
SELECTMEN: PUBLIC HEARING ON 9TH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SITE SELECTION**

The Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and School Committee was called to order. School Committee members present: Ms. Ditkoff (Chairman), Mr. Pollak (Vice Chairman), Mr. Chang, Ms. Charlupski, Mr. Glover, Dr. Jackson, Ms. Scotto, Ms. Stone, and Ms. Stram.

Selectmen present: Mr. Wishinsky (Chairman), Ms. Daly, Mr. Franco, Mr. Greene, and Ms. Heller (by phone).

Staff present: Mr. Bott, Mr. Lummis, Mr. Kleckner, Ms. Brewton, and other administrative staff.

Others present: Jonathan Levi and Philip Gray, Jonathan Levi Architects, and F. Giles Ham, Vanasse & Associates.

Mr. Wishinsky announced that Ms. Heller will be participating remotely, by phone, because he has determined that geographic distance makes Ms. Heller's physical attendance unreasonably difficult.

a. Welcome and Updates

Mr. Wishinsky and Ms. Ditkoff welcomed everyone. Mr. Wishinsky noted that the members of the Board of Selectmen are on public record that whichever option is selected, they are committed to keeping a full service supermarket at the Village site. Ms. Ditkoff expressed her appreciation to our educators, school leadership, the Police Department, and the Parks Department for the thoughtful and rapid response to the hateful graffiti found at the Brookline High School. She also expressed her gratitude to our educators and town staff for helping students deal with the impact of recent events in Charlotte and Tulsa.

Ms. Lummis reviewed the 9th Elementary School Site Selection Process to date (Attachment A). He discussed why Brookline needs a new K-8 elementary school (dramatic and ongoing enrollment growth) and the consequences if we do not build a new elementary school (shortage of 27-30 classrooms across the district at the K-8 level; undersized cafeterias will result in all K-8 schools starting lunch before 10:30 AM; inadequate core facilities such as gymnasiums and libraries will not be addressed; expansion of the use of expensive, short-term solutions such as modular classes and rental space; class sizes continue to increase).

Mr. Lummis provided an overview of what Brookline has been doing to address expanding enrollment (2009 Facilities Master Plan created by MGT; 2013 Brookline School Population and Capacity Exploration – B-SPACE – Committee; 2014 Override Study Committee Report; December 2014 Civic Moxie commissioned to identify possible locations for 9th elementary school), expanding in place 2008-2015 (54 classrooms added through Expand-in-Place since 2008; relocated administrative offices from school buildings into rental space; created new classrooms by dividing larger ones; converted hallways, locker rooms, and small rooms into substandard classroom spaces and administrative office space; expanded and utilized buffer zones to distribute enrollment increases across all school to balance overcrowding; reclaimed classrooms dedicated to Extended Day and other programs; spending \$1 million annually for rental space for classroom and administrative offices).

Mr. Lummis described the current site selection process (Civic Moxie Report identified 26 possible sites with six identified as most promising; Board of Selectmen and School Committee voted construction of a new elementary school as the preferred solution to address the ongoing enrollment growth; 14 public meetings; Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Advisory Committee all vote to forego Massachusetts School Building Authority – MSBA – partnership to allow for greater flexibility on cost, design and timeline; based on public input from October through January, Boards voted on further study of three sites: Village School, Beverly Road, and Baldwin/Soule. Mr. Lummis noted that this has been a collaborative effort across town departments and commissions (Planning, Building, Park and Recreation, Advisory Committee and related subcommittees, Preservation Commission, and Conservation Commission). He provided a summary of public participation and a snapshot of public input on the three sites and noted additional questions and comments.

Mr. Levi discussed the various steps of this project, noting the need in the initial stage to carefully balance dollars spent on investigation with risk reduction. Information is not complete, but they made a judgment about what is enough information to move forward. Mr. Levi provided an update on meetings with boards and commissions. The Conservation Commission and Agent made no promises, but noted that the kind of intervention suggested for Baker is not very different from other interventions that have been done across town. Mr. Levi stated that F. Giles Ham, Vanasse & Associates, Inc., will be presenting the traffic study. They looked at strategies to reduce the impact of traffic in the neighborhoods by moving it off the streets and on to the site. They looked at queuing for drop-off and pick-up, bus flow, and teacher/staff parking. The Baker option would allow for total on-site queuing and parking.

Mr. Ham then presented his conclusions (noting the limitations of information). Their goal was to determine the most successful plan for each site. Safety is the primary concern. The most critical issues are parent drop-off, queuing, and parking. Their study indicated that the following could be provided at the three sites: Baker (Parking Spaces-300 Total; Parent Queuing-900 feet; Bus Queuing-360 feet; Site works very well); Baldwin (Parking Spaces-120; Parent Queuing-460 feet; Bus queuing-160 feet;

Hammond very congested during peak period; a tighter site; cannot get the queuing area would like at this site); and Village (Parking Spaces-60; Parent Queuing-900 feet; Bus Queuing-200 feet; is workable).

b. Public Hearing on 9th Elementary School Site Selection

1. Jane Pinto, Director, Brookline Schools Staff Children's Center

She asked for continued support/space for the Brookline Schools Staff Children's Center, which is currently housed in the Baldwin School. The program offers a high level of care and early education and enables our teachers to focus on teaching. Access to outdoor space is extremely important. The program would like to continue to grow as school enrollment and school staff increase.

2. Stephanie, McAllister Poon, Brookline Teacher

She spoke in support of maintaining space for the Brookline Schools Staff Children's Center. Access to this program has made her a more devoted teacher in Brookline. The children are cared for by teachers who have made this job their lives' work. The Center is designed around teachers.

3. Adrienne Bowman, 416 VFW Parkway, Town Meeting Member Precinct 16

She spoke in support of building the 9th elementary school in South Brookline. People have noted issues with both the Baldwin and Baker sites, but she is hoping there will be cooperation. The 9th elementary school needs to be in South Brookline because of planned development, Baker overcrowding, and distance to other schools.

4. Michael Manov, 2 St. Paul Street

His condominium building abuts the Village site. It is a very dense area. He is concerned that the supermarket would be closed during construction. The association would resist having their land taken. The Village site is less than a third of the Baker site and the cost would be at least 50% higher than Baker. We shouldn't spend more to get less. There are 49 families in his association and they need to be protected. They have hired an eminent domain lawyer and will fight against the access road. This will cause a delay. The Baker site does not require any takings.

5. Yvette Johnson, 99 Kent Street, #119

She is concerned with the potential loss of Stop & Shop. The store is close by and convenient, particularly for seniors, and has better prices than other area stores.

6. Michelle Morrissey

She supports a 9th elementary school in South Brookline at either site. Development will increase and there is overcrowding in the classrooms, common space and roadways. Urged the Boards to select a site on October 13 and encouraged everyone to put aside personal interests and support building a great new school in Brookline.

7. Dave Gaciovh, 7 Fairway Road

B-SPACE concluded that Baldwin was a bad spot for a new school. Very few kids live nearby so it would require a lot of redistricting and busing. Baldwin was not part of the Civic Moxie analysis. No one has explained why things are different now. How many kids could walk and how many would have to be bused? We need to see the data before making a decision. We should try to maximize the number of kids across town that can walk and minimize the number of families who get a negative impact.

8. Jane Flanagan, 854 Hammond Street, Town Meeting Member Precinct 15

She expressed concern about traffic and the status of the day care. There is no plan in place. This would be the only school that would not serve the people in the precinct it is housed. Her immediate neighbors prefer the Baker site. We need to consider traffic and the children's safety.

9. Richard Nangle, 854 Hammond Street, Town Meeting Member Precinct 15

Baker is a better site. Hammond Street is gridlock. He urged people to see it. Baldwin isn't where the need is. It will be the least walkable school and most families will need to drive. There is no safe egress. It will greatly increase traffic in an area with a lot of schools. It has the potential to lead to more development, which could mean a loss of affordable housing. The Baker proposal has an excellent on-site traffic mitigation plan.

10. Charlie Robbins, 630 Hammond Street

Soule is a very special spot. He expressed concern with the process. People near Baldwin didn't know that the site was being considered until they received the abutters' notices. He urged the Boards to pay attention to the consultants' findings.

11. Rena Silevitch, 70 Harvard Avenue

Access from Aspinwall/St. Paul is problematic and will end up in court. She noted that the store currently opens at 7:00 AM. Scheduling deliveries at off hours will impact neighbors. She is concerned with the impact on children's safety. This is the most expensive option and it would result in a substandard school.

12. Michael Silevitch, 70 Harvard Avenue

The Stop & Shop parking lot once housed a gas station. If environmental mitigation is needed, it will significantly impact the cost. Why wasn't Parsons Field considered?

13. Robin Levine, 15 Oak Street

Traffic is very dense on Hammond Street and Oak Street. Parents will try to use Oak Street for drop-off. It is a very narrow street. Not many children in the area attend public schools so there would need to be a lot of busing. Less than 10% of the children would be walkers. What would happen to the mature trees in front of the property? Will other children be allowed to use the Soule play space during the day?

14. Kathie Wrick, 630 Hammond Street

A 40-unit development will be built at the corner of Hammond Street and Route 9, adding to traffic congestion. The students aren't in the Baldwin area. There is not adequate space or safety for bicycling.

15. Julie Gross, 629 Hammond Street

She agreed with previous speaker and expressed concerns about safety and air and noise pollution.

16. Rosalind Palter, 640 Hammond Street

Baker is the best option. The traffic there could be controlled.

17. Julie Jette, 93 Payson Road

She supports a 9th school in South Brookline. The data supports this. She urged the Boards to continue to use the data available to make a decision.

18. Jon Gould, 630 Hammond Street

He hopes the spirit of the town is preserved, part of which is that children can walk to schools, whenever possible. He stressed the need to consider safety. Baker is the best alternative.

19. Jeff Engelman, 146 Beverly Road

He expressed concerns about the Baker site. Consider equity in education. There would be 1,600 students on one campus. Schools should be appropriately sized. Consider the impact of displacement of current Baker students for multiple academic years, conservation, zoning, wetlands, and student safety.

20. Marcy Sacks, 102 Wallis Road

She supports building a school in South Brookline and supports the Baldwin site. The site is an underutilized gem and would be an incredible learning environment. She noted the landscape, the parking in the backs, three entry ways, the fields, and open space. Brookline has a K-8 model. No school should have 1,600 students in one place. Over 260 residents signed a petition in support of the Baldwin site.

21. Ellen Gilmore, 24 St. Paul Street

She expressed concern that their parking lot might be taken by eminent domain. How will parents, shoppers, and delivery trucks enter and exit the site? Where will the turn-around be? The St. Paul intersection is very dangerous and traffic goes very fast. The Billy Ward Playground and the nearby crosswalks are used by families with very young children. She is concerned about the impact on their safety.

22. Elaine Fleming, 10 Vernon Street

She expressed concerns about the impact of a Village School on traffic. The Traffic Study focused on getting traffic off the street, but we need to consider how the traffic will get there. The traffic at Vernon Street is already difficult. Traffic studies were done in

June and September. Are those the heaviest use months? How will traffic be impacted by snow and ice? Buses stopping on Harvard Street will block traffic and visibility. The sidewalks on Harvard Street are very narrow.

23. Fred Pinches, 49 Marion Street.

A 9th school won't solve our problems. In five years we will have enough students to fill two more schools. The cost will be prohibitive and the voters don't know what they are paying for. No one is talking about the cost of interest and debt service. We are well over capacity and should look at scheduling double sessions in the schools on an emergency and temporary basis. We need good space utilization and planning. We could reach our goal faster and it would be less expensive.

24. Dave Pantalone, 19 Alton Place

A 9th school won't solve all our problems. We will need a 10th school. None of the sites being considered are in the middle of town. Six out of eight existing schools are in North Brookline. There will be busing no matter where we build the 9th school. The Village site is very close to the Pierce School. He is concerned with the potential impact on traffic. The Village site is the most costly and has the most risk. We should consider community impact, open space, and energy efficiency.

25. Tricia Marks, 20 St. Paul Street

She is concerned with the proposal for the Aspinwall access road. Traffic is already bad and it is a dangerous intersection, with many accidents. Children would have to walk through parking lots and that is very dangerous. Who would provide snow removal? This proposal would impact 99 families. We need a new school, but this is not the answer.

26. Kay George, 693 Hammond Street

She is concerned with traffic and safety at the Baldwin site. The Baker site has more open space and opportunities for children to develop an appreciation for the environment and conservation.

27. Stephanie Sacharow, 133 Wolcott Road

She is a Baker parent and is worried by the prospect of adding 800 additional students. The school is already over-crowded. Building at Baker will have a major negative impact on the neighborhood and the school experience. How will they control crowds and bullying? Loss of a field would be a major loss. Traffic will be an issue. It may be difficult to get emergency vehicles to the school. It will no longer be a walker/biker school. Baker will be absorbing the entire burden of the growing population in Brookline.

28. John Hebert, 21 Auburn Street

He expressed concerns about the Village site. Building a school at the Village site will contribute to overcrowding in North Brookline by encouraging more development. He

noted issues of traffic, infrastructure, safety, lack of open space, and busing. Harvard is already incredibly crowded. He spoke against a hybrid plan.

29. Lynne Jadd, 86 Griggs Road

Residents in the area depend on the Stop & Shop and it is not fair to build another school in this section of Brookline. She suggested phasing out non-resident student programs and ensuring that all students are legal residents of Brookline so that we can avoid another override.

30. Carolyn Thall, 66 Beverly Road

She referred to the petition signed by over 260 residents in support of a new school at Baldwin, not Baker. She noted the potential loss of trees at Baker.

31. Eliot Schickler, 3Auburn Place

The Village site is the most expensive option and could negatively impact traffic and safety. The site is within walking distance to three other schools. The east side of Brookline does not have a school. He suggested looking at the possibility of acquiring the Cadillac Olds Building or the New England Hebrew Academy sites. There is already a great deal of traffic at the Village site.

32. Marc Marchiel, Beverly Road

He is concerned that having 1,600 students at Baker will exacerbate the traffic situation. There would be a two-way road in the middle of the elementary school. There is the possibility that existing Baker would need to be closed during construction. Consider parity. This would be the largest elementary school in the state. There is an inverse relationship between school size and performance. The cost, including rightsizing existing Baker, would be \$105M-\$120M. Adding to Baker at a later date could be a stopgap measure. He would like to see the matrix reflect the collective judgments of the Boards.

33. Deb Abner, 265 Russet Road

She doesn't think that Baker expansion is the best option. She is concerned about the impact on traffic, green space, trees, the delicate ecological system, and the safety of children getting in and out of the buildings.

34. Nancy Tremblay 57 St. Paul Street

They do not have a car and having the Stop & Shop close by is very important to them. Closing the store for even a short period of time would be a hardship. North Brookline is at capacity. There is already a lot of noise, construction, and development in the area. She is concerned about the children's safety. People don't always follow the traffic rules. There are already two schools in the neighborhood.

35. Julie Schreiner Oldham, 24 Grassmere Road

She is a Baker parent and they walk to school. A "megaschool" is not the solution even if means that her family and other families will get bumped to another school. She would

rather have that happen for the greater good of the school. Baker is not the right place for another school. Many of the people who signed the petition in support of the Baldwin site would be bumped out of Baker.

36. David Green, Beverly Road

We need to study what makes most sense for children pedagogically before making a decision. Does having 1,600 students on one site make sense for the children?

There being no more people wishing to speak, Mr. Wishinsky and Ms. Ditkoff closed the public hearing at 9:20 PM.

c. Board Discussion

Ms. Ditkoff spoke to the issue of redistricting. She noted that the experts have warned them that any maps developed at this stage are illustrative based on short-term information and that we should not make long-term decisions based on short-term information. We will need to make a decision on a site without knowing everything we would like to know about issues such as walkability and busing. Ms. Ditkoff explained that staff is gathering information on the current location of children and dwellings with respect to the existing schools, the pipeline of currently known developments, locations, and currently estimated bedrooms. Staff is developing an analysis of where future development might happen by right within existing zoning. They have started discussing the criteria and methodology for redistricting used in earlier efforts. The process can take more than six months. Dr. Jackson noted that at this stage, we are trying to pick a site, not a building. Board members then provided input and raised questions regarding the three sections of the Matrix (Attachment C): Location Factors, Site Size and Configuration, and Schedule and Cost risk Factors for the three sites (Village, Baldwin, and Baker).

Village Site

Village Site Location Factors

Mr. Greene: Discussion of the Village Site has focused on safety. This site would be the safest site in terms of accessibility to the play areas. We already have one urban school – Devotion. He would not want this discussion to prejudice future consideration of an urban school.

Ms. Stone: She recommends not including “Can be Intimidating to Cross” in the Matrix comments and analysis and changing the rating to, at least, neutral. We have many students that already cross busy streets (e.g., Harvard, Beacon, and Route 9) to get to a number of schools. She noted that the students in need of space live primarily in North Brookline. She suggested adding Where the Children Live and Number of Schools Nearby that Require Relief factors to the Matrix.

Ms. Scotto: She questioned why Traffic Impacts is rated Disadvantageous instead of Very Disadvantageous. This would have a major impact on traffic flow on Harvard Street. We should not assume that we will need less parking for teachers because of the

access to public transportation. Elementary teachers often have meetings at other schools and need to carry things so they may not be able to take public transportation.

Dr. Jackson: We need a shared definition for all of these factors, including Traffic Impacts.

Ms. Stone: She agreed with Dr. Jackson on the need for common benchmarks against which to measure. We need to consider whether any of the alternative routes could actually help mitigate current traffic congestion.

Village Site Size and Configuration

Ms. Daly: This site is more expensive than the other options. She is also concerned with Parity with Other K-8 Schools. This school would have a relatively small play area on the roof. Mr. Levi stated that this rating focused on opportunities for open space and the building configuration, not what is within the buildings.

Ms. Stram: She suggested including any data on the dimensions on the Matrix. This will help the community conversation be around common factors.

Ms. Stone: Playgrounds, Recess and Fields conflate the desire to have fields for after school and weekends (a community asset) and the needs of an elementary school for open space during the day.

Village Site Schedule and Cost Risk Factors

Ms. Charlupski: She suggested that Acquisitions-Schedule be rated Very Disadvantageous/High Risk rather than just Disadvantageous. Mr. Wishinsky noted that Stop & Shop doesn't own the site, so there is no guarantee that Stop & Shop will stay there. He believes that the best opportunity to maintain a supermarket on the site is to engage in a partnership with the town. The consultants have stated that acquiring the access road is not essential to making the site work. Ms. Ditkoff noted that nothing is off the table until we have a high school.

Baldwin Site

Baldwin Location Factors

Ms. Charlupski: Traffic Impacts had been rated Disadvantageous, but is now rated Very Disadvantageous/High Risk, perhaps because of the queuing. She noted that none of our schools currently have on-site queuing. Some of the traffic might be mitigated through the assistance of a police officer and additional busing.

Mr. Glover: He asked that the consultant comment on traffic issues in the absence of queuing. Mr. Giles stated that 800'-900' of queuing space is desirable, but the site doesn't accommodate this. A separate issue is the traffic congestion on Route 9 and Hammond Street. Adding traffic from a school will make that worse. It is a constrained site. There would still be an issue even with 900' for queuing. He believes that traffic would be worse at Baldwin than at the Village site.

Ms. Daly: She suggested the possibility of building a smaller school at the Baldwin site that might enable more queuing space. Mr. Giles stated that if the school was half the size (approximately 400 students), they could have on-site queuing. A smaller school would lessen the impact on Hammond Street, but it is very congested.

Ms. Stram: We cannot pick a site without keeping in mind the longer term set of decisions we need to make and the next step down the road that solves the broader problem.

Mr. Glover: Do we know how many students attend the two day care centers? (Meeting attendees said that Baldwin Day Care has approximately 35 students and Soule has approximately 60.) Mr. Glover asked if there is any possibility for queuing in the parking area. Mr. Levi stated that they explored this. They have received a lot of cooperation from the Park and Recreation Commission in sharing the large parking area and play fields, but he is less confident that that there could be dedicated drop-off and pick-up in the Soule area. At this point the answer is no. In response to a question from Ms. Ditkoff, Mr. Levi stated that this could make a difference. They could achieve 900' of queuing space. This would mean that we wouldn't have traffic backing up on to Hammond and it might displace the curb cut entrance further to the east up Heath Street.

Ms. Heller: She is intrigued by the idea of being able to expand Baker at a later date. That may solve problems for many years to come. There must be a way to solve the traffic issues. We shouldn't reject any notion as to where we will build. The Village site is very complicated.

Ms. Stone: Ratings for Community Use seem subjective. Can we use common definitions that make the ratings more comparable? Mr. Levi stated that Community Use looks at whether there is an extra use that enhances community life. Ms. Stone noted that Community Use and Community Access/Use have the same comments.

Mr. Greene: The Baldwin site should be comparable to the Village site, not the Baker site, for the Fire Department Response Time rating. He suggested taking out the Proximity to Public Transportation factor. Ms. Daly agreed with the comment on Fire Department Response Time. The Police Chief opined that it is difficult to get ladder trucks to Baker. Mr. Pollak stated that this rating is based on the number of fire stations that have access to the site.

Baldwin Site Size and Configuration

Ms. Charlupski: She noted that the school wouldn't be able to use the full 2.68 acres. Ms. Ditkoff agreed that getting that parity is important.

Mr. Greene: The Overall Student Safety comments are not accurate and should not be included.

Ms. Stone: Program Displacement should be considered during Feasibility, not in Site Selection. We don't know at this point what will happen to the programs. She questioned the Disadvantageous rating, which is based on an assumption that the program will be displaced. Ms. Ditkoff stated that there is an assumption that, with the exception of a 1,600 student school, the Educational Program would be comparable across the schools. Pedagogy was considered, but it was assumed that, with the one exception, the programs would be comparable. Mr. Wishinsky stated that he would want assurance that a vote for Baker would be for two schools, not a "megaschool." Ms. Stone suggested not including the Program Displacement factor or changing it to Disruption of Current Use.

Mr. Franco: He asked for clarification on the relative ratings for Topography and Underground Obstacles. Mr. Levi replied that all three sites have slope and ledge issues.

Baldwin Schedule and Cost Risk Factors

Ms. Charlupski: She asked why Baldwin Construction Duration is Disadvantageous while Baker Construction Duration is rated Advantageous. Mr. Levi stated that he spoke to their estimator Richard Marks. The rating reflects the fact that Baldwin is a restrictive site and the existing Baldwin School would need to be demolished so there is more phasing. Baker has 11 acres and this would be good for separating construction from current use. In response to a question from Mr. Greene, Mr. Levi stated that if we don't right size existing Baker, it could stay in use during construction. Mr. Greene stated that we should consider the nature of the disruption and which proposals would be most disruptive during construction. Mr. Pollak suggested that this might be part of Feasibility. Ms. Stram stated that certain of these criteria are implementation questions. We shouldn't make a choice based on construction impacts, but should try to mitigate disruption during construction.

Ms. Ditkoff: It is important to understand the Baldwin tennis court deed restrictions.

Baker Site

Baker Location Factors

Mr. Glover: How many more children might there be in the area from possible new developments? Ms. Ditkoff stated that Ms. Dunn is working on coming up with a range. Director of Planning and Community Development Alison Steinfeld stated that she has been working with Dr. Connelly on developing a projection based on possible 40B projects and projected development.

Ms. Daly: She questioned how Baker could be rated Advantageous for Traffic Impacts, with the addition of 800 students and whether the consultants' analysis factored in the number of K-1 parents who park and walk their children into school. Mr. Pollak stated that the architect has said that taking all the queuing and parking off of Beverly Road will improve traffic. Their design addresses parking for drop-off. The consultant believes that the traffic could be improved. We need to understand that there will be a cost to this. We won't get the best solutions at the bottom of the cost range. Mr. Levi stated that their plan does accommodate parents who want to park and walk their children into school.

Putting all queuing and parking on-site will improve traffic flow. They have not really looked at outlying traffic issues. They have that problem on all three sites. They believe that the local traffic situation immediately adjacent to the Baker is superior to the other sites. Village isn't bad.

Ms. Daly: It is difficult to see how the Baker option would address our overcrowding problem in North Brookline. Ms. Stone suggested adding relative need in terms of school populations near the site as one of the Location Factors. Baldwin would be a little better than Baker at drawing some children from the north part of Brookline. Ms. Stone noted that there will be a shift, no matter where the school is built. Ms. Ditkoff stated that we don't know at this point the net walkability for the town. Ms. Stone stated that it is important to know where the schools are that are overcrowded.

Mr. Pollak: We have been reassured that we could build at Baker without significant degradation of the sanctuary, but it is important to recognize that we would still be losing significant woodland at Baker and Baldwin. Ms. Ditkoff suggested that someone estimate carbon footprint.

Mr. Greene: He asked for clarification on the Sustainability-Daylighting/Orientation Factor. Mr. Levi stated that they mainly considered the orientation of the building and its ability to capture sunlight.

Ms. Stone: She asked for clarification on the Makes Right-Sizing Baker More Efficient Factor. Ms. Ditkoff stated that right now Baker is at 4 ½ sections, not 4. If you were to build at Baker, it would make it more efficient to do alterations at existing Baker. Mr. Pollak noted that the Baker cost range should be \$85M-\$120M.

Ms. Daly: She is concerned with having 1,600 students on one site and noted the impact on supervision of young children.

Ms. Charlupski: She asked the cost of a three-section school at Baldwin. Mr. Levi stated that they were not asked to study that.

Ms. Scotto: She questioned the Advantageous rating for Proximity to Neighbors. There are neighbors across the street from the school, next to the parking lot, and next door to the trees that might be removed.

Baker Schedule and Cost Risk Factors

Ms. Charlupski: She asked for clarification on why Potential Article 97 Challenge Factors isn't rated Advantageous.

Ms. Ditkoff asked that Board members forward any additional thoughts on the sites to staff. She asked that staff note on the Matrix where there is divergence of opinion. Mr. Chang suggested that we pay attention to the experts' analysis. He feels that Schedule and Cost Risk Factors are the most important considerations. We need to

eliminate sites and prioritize what we need in terms of new information. Ms. Scotto noted that the traffic analysis was done in June and would be different at other times of the year. Mr. Levi stated that JLA will be compiling the comments and summarizing the process in a report. The Boards will receive the report a week or so before the vote as a resource for decision making. JLA will incorporate changes and ask the Chairmen for feedback. Ms. Ditkoff stated that the Boards may need another deliberation before the scheduled vote on October 13, 2016.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance

i. FY 2018 Budget Development Process Calendar (2nd Reading/Vote)

Ms. Stram presented the revised FY 2018 Budget Development Process Calendar (Attachment C).

ACTION 16-61

On a motion of Ms. Stram and seconded by Ms. Stone, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the FY 2018 Budget Development Process Calendar, as shown in Attachment C.

ii. FY 2018 School Committee Budget Development Guidelines and Priorities (2nd Reading/Vote)

Ms. Stram presented the FY 2018 School Committee Budget Development Guidelines and Priorities (Attachment D).

ACTION 16-62

On a motion of Ms. Stram and seconded by Mr. Chang, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the FY 2018 School Committee Budget Development Guidelines and Priorities, as shown in Attachment D.

b. Government Relations

i. Appointment of Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Delegate

Ms. Stone reported that the School Committee needs to appoint a Delegate to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

ACTION 16-63

On a motion of Ms. Stone and seconded by Dr. Jackson, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to appoint Ms. Charlupski to the position of Massachusetts Association of School Committees Delegate.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

9. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

By unanimous roll call vote at 11:00 PM, the School Committee entered into Executive Session for Purpose 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Brookline Educators Union-Units A, B, and Paraprofessionals).

10. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ditkoff adjourned the meeting at 11:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin E. Coyne, Executive Assistant
Brookline School Committee